

The Welles-Shipman House
South Glastonbury, Connecticut

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

THE WELLES-SHIPMAN HOUSE

South Glastonbury, Hartford County, Conn.

Owner: Dr. James W. Ward

1969 GLASTONBURY HISTORICAL SOC

Date of Erection: 1750

Architect or Builder: Thomas Welles

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and One-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation
Pitched roof shingled
Clapboard sidewalls
Brick chimney

Other Existing Records: Architectural Guide of Connecticut,
J. F. Kelly.
Tercentenary 1635 - 1935.
The Christian Science Monitor,
Sat., Sept. 28, 1935.
("Conn. Towns and Houses")

List of Photographs:

1. Southwest Elevation
2. Front Entrance (West)
3. Detail of Stairs
4. Present Dining Room (West Wall)
5. South Wall of North West Room
6. Cabinet - Southwest Room

THE WELLES-SHIPMAN HOUSE

South Glastonbury, Hartford County, Conn.

Another dwelling which we have been fortunate to find in its original character is the Welles-Shipman House at South Glastonbury, Connecticut. It has remained almost without change since its building date of 1750, and is even now in fine condition.

This two and one-half story, frame dwelling was built by Thomas Welles, one of scores of that family name, which is prominently mentioned in the Records of the Colony. He sold it in 1785 to Captain Stephen Shipman and the title remained within the Shipman family for five generations until 1923, when, after the death of Mrs. Ella Shipman, it was sold to Dr. J. W. Ward of Hartford, Connecticut.

The Master builder, not unlike others of the early building era, is unknown. It is with sharp regrets that we note that in all American records of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries there is so little to be found of the men who acted on such meager specifications and produced such admirable and varied structures. The owner desired weight to be carried, merely by the order to erect a house of such and such dimensions, built in the best manner or wainscoted in all front rooms; accepting the prevailing type and proportion. They devoted their skill and taste to minor matters, and so on moldings and cornices, windowheads, doorways, mantels, panelling, corner cupboards, and stairways, they wrought with their utmost ability. In such woodwork they had certain freedom to follow personal desire, and these have left us with numerous structures which differ little when seen from a distance, but which show strong individuality when one is close at hand or within. Such a one is the Welles-Shipman House. Varying little in size and arrangements from a score or two of others that stand within the same township of South Glastonbury, yet no other has just these niceties of finish in the small ways just mentioned. This detailed individuality is noted on the exterior particularly on the doorway. Within the house its distinct personality is marked by the rich panelled wainscote and complete fire place ends. Other details of particular note are the front stairs with a finely molded stringer and sparking bend, the panelled walls of the fire places in all four front rooms, and the unusual form of the corner cupboards in the hall.

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Dr. and Mrs. James W. Ward, the present owners,
graciously receive visitors who are likely to be appreciative of this very unusual old house.

Source of Information: Architectural Guide of Connecticut,
J. F. Kelly.

Tercentenary 1635 - 1935.

The Christian Science Monitor,
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Approved:

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